

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

10/15/ 1943

The Director \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Pennington  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Nease  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_ Miss Gandy  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_ Room No. \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Bellino \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Lawrence  
Mr. Cartwright \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. O'Connell  
Mr. Clements \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Peterson  
Mr. Gearty \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. K. R. Schroeder  
Mr. Hair \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. R. D. Scott  
Mr. Hayes \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. P. J. Shine  
Mr. M. H. Horton \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. R. E. Smith  
Mr. S. H. Horton \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. P. J. Travers  
Mr. Kennedy \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. West

Mrs. Wells \_\_\_\_\_ See me  
Mr. Ferguson \_\_\_\_\_ Send file  
Miss Pope \_\_\_\_\_ Call me  
Prepare tickler \_\_\_\_\_ Note and return  
for \_\_\_\_\_ Search, serialize &  
File \_\_\_\_\_ route

I don't know what you have in mind,  
but after the run around we got on  
this case I don't think we ought to  
do a thing, particularly in view of  
the request coming thru Captain  
Melchen.  
Room 5706  
Branch 571

A. Rosen

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1943

The Director \_\_\_\_\_ Records Section  
Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_ Personnel Files  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_ Send File  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_ Bring file up-  
to-date  
✓ Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_ Search, serial-  
ize, and route  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_ \* \* \*  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_ Mechanical Section  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_ \* \* \*  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_ Call me re this  
Mr. Long \_\_\_\_\_ Note and return  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_ See me

SECTION CHIEFS

Mr. Alden \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Mumford  
Mr. Burton \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Strickland  
Mr. Callan \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Timm  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Welch  
Mr. Cunningham \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Fitch \_\_\_\_\_

Miss Stalcup \_\_\_\_\_ Stamp and mail  
Miss Conlon \_\_\_\_\_ War and Navy File  
Miss James \_\_\_\_\_ State Dept. File  
Miss Welch \_\_\_\_\_ Type  
Register & forward  
Prepare tickler for  
Call these files  
File  
See me \_\_\_\_\_ Place on record

DO WE HAVE ANYTHING  
IF WE DO WE GAVE  
TO TREASURY AND  
THEY WOULD BE  
PLACE; TAGET  
INFO

HOWARD A. Tamm - 5734

**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice**

Miami, Florida

August 13, 1943

Director, FBI

Re: ALFRED DE MARIGNY;  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/6/80 BY SP-5  
MJS/tam

Dear Sir:

There is enclosed herewith one photographic copy of an undated letter, postmarked Nassau, Bahamas, August 3, 1943, from [redacted] to LADY EUNICE OAKES, The Willows, Bar Harbor, Maine. Attention is directed to the fact that the sender and the addressee of the letter are, respectively, [redacted] SIR HARRY OAKES, who was murdered at Nassau, on the night of July 7, 8, 1943.

Attention is also directed to the second page of the letter, which reads in part as follows:

"I have just had a most distressing cable from Dr. ZAHL. Please believe me that it is of vital importance that you see him. My God, do you want us all to go the same way? You must divine the seriousness of this thing not only us but our country. You must see Dr. ZAHL immediately \* \* \*."

b7C

Photographic copies of this letter were received from the local Censorship Station.

An endeavor was made to ascertain the contents of the cable received [redacted] from DR. ZAHL. From the Office of the District Cable Censor it was ascertained that on July 21, 1943, [redacted] received a cable from PAUL ZAHL at New York City, stating "Unless unavoidably delayed will arrive Saturday."

RECORDED

On July 22, 1943, [redacted] sent the following cable to her mother at The Willows, Bar Harbor, Maine: INDEXED SE 7

"Positive FRED DE MARIGNY not guilty party Stop Most anxious that real truth behind father's death should be revealed Stop If you cannot believe in me and keep your promise to aid me substantially must appeal to friends Stop Must have impartial expert investigators immediately I know I am acting as would be father's wish it is for us all Stop This communication confidential cable me immediately my love"

COPIES DESTROYED

40 NOV 6 1964

57 SEP 8 1943

ENCLOSURE 38

23197-5  
AUG 23 1943  
B  
1  
CHAPMAN

Director, FBI  
August 13, 1943

On July 25, 1943, [ ] sent the following cable to her mother at Bar Harbor, Maine:

"Now more than ever certain ALFRED MARIGNY innocent but am without means to procure expert legal assistance Stop I implore you in interests of entire family not to refuse me financial aid necessary not only to prevent my husband your soninlaw from being unjustly branded a murderer but also aid disclosing real truth behind fathers tragic death Stop Cable immediately whether you willing to help at this critical phase of my existence the nature of which will depend upon the outcome of this struggle Stop Otherwise I will be obliged to make public my extraordinary predicament Stop Love to all"

On July 26, 1943, LADY OAKES sent the following cable to her [ ]

"I will defer any action on the contents of your cable until completion of the preliminary hearing"

On August 2, 1943, [ ] received the following cable from PAUL ZAHL, Bar Harbor, Maine:

b7C

"EDWARD HOLMES fine mother incommunicado to everyone on MORRISONS advice suggest you come immediately with funds please give no statement to press except as we discussed call me from Miami"

This is undoubtedly the cable referred to [ ] in the intercepted letter.

The Back Traffic at the Cable Censor, Miami, reflects that [ ] firmly believes in the innocence of her husband, who is suspected of the murder of SIR HARRY OAKES, and has been making all efforts to secure expert investigators and criminologists to prove her husband's innocence. It is believed that possibly she desires the services of Dr. PAUL ZAHL in this connection.

The above is being submitted to the Bureau as a matter of information for possible future reference. Copy of this letter and enclosure are being forwarded to the New York Office for its information.

Very truly yours,

*A. P. Kitchen*  
A. P. KITCHIN, SAC

JDL:doc  
Enclosure

cc: NewYork (Enc.)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/11/80 BY SP-5  
mgl/alm



ENCLOSURE

62-73197-5

ENCLOSURE

Victoria Ave.,  
Nassau.

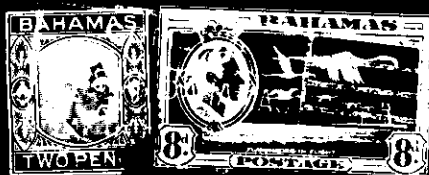
Monday.

Mama dearest,

This is just a wee note to tell you that I am quite well although the heat is getting me down, also the general atmosphere which you can understand about, now that you have been properly informed of the facts. There is so little I can say in a letter as you can understand but as I may have to leave later this week I am writing or speaking to you from Miami or New York. When my business is done there I should love to come up just a B.H. for a few days. I am writing this under a terrific strain but you can understand enough from it. It is not at all what I would really like to say but one has to take care.

42815

I am also very worried about Freddie's health as that prison is very primitive and his cell is so small that not even a little table can be put in for him to write on. They take him out an hour a day for exercise but that is all. He has a worse life than the common prisoners because they spend most of the day outside and only sleep in the cells. The window is so small that even he can't look out and there is no mercy as the flies are terrible but he is being very brave. I have just had a most distressing cable from Dr. Zehl. Please believe me that it is of vital importance that you see him. My God, do you want it all to go the same way? You must divine the seriousness of this thing not only as out our ~~own~~ country. You must see Dr. Zehl. Have you any feeling of self-preservation? God, you must save your chances.



Lady Eunice Oakes  
"The Willows"  
Bar Harbor,  
Maine.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC R. G. Danner, Miami, Florida

SUBJECT: HARRY OAKES MURDER CASE;  
INFORMATION CONCERNING [REDACTED]

DATE: April 19, 1944

[REDACTED]  
Miami, Florida - Informant

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/12/80 BY SP-5  
[Signature]

On April 12, 1944, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Miami, Florida, displayed to a liaison representative from this  
office at the censorship station a letter which had been intercepted at the  
station addressed to [REDACTED]  
Cuba, from [REDACTED] New York  
17, New York.

This letter contained information to the effect that a former FBI  
agent was working on the OAKES murder case in cooperation with PAUL ZAHL,  
the writer of the letter. [REDACTED] stated that he was showing this  
letter to an FBI representative because he thought there was a possibility  
that the former FBI agent mentioned in the letter might be using information  
which he had obtained while he was in the employ of the Bureau. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] stated that in his opinion the letter should not be photostated, either  
in whole or in part because the information was not of a national security  
matter. [REDACTED] claims to be a personal friend of the former HARRY  
OAKES and was apparently trying to ascertain whether the Bureau had actually  
conducted any investigation in the OAKES case. He was advised that the  
facilities of the FBI laboratory in Washington, D.C., were available to  
investigating officers in the case but that was the only extent of the FBI's  
interest.

b7C

b7D

On April 14, 1944, the above-mentioned letter was routed through  
routine channels at the [REDACTED] to the liaison division for the  
attention of the FBI representative and the [REDACTED] representative.  
[REDACTED] has placed FRED de MARNIGNY on their local watch list. Two  
photostatic copies of the entire letter were obtained at this time.

Paragraph 1, Page 2, of this letter is being quoted as follows:

"Which brings me to the subject of the cablegram the  
other day. During the last six months I have been in close and  
extremely confidential contact with the former FBI man associated  
with the Christie warrant. I have spoken to you about him. He  
and I have quietly had numerous conferences, taken trips to  
Washington, interviewed cranks (most of whom I turned over to  
Schindler), and have generally kept our ears close to the ground,  
trying to segregate information with a sound basis from that  
based on idle rumor. The principal motive for this man's

2 ENCL

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54 MAY 8 1944

36 APR 24 1944

Letter to the Director, FBI  
April 19, 1944

Re: HARRY OAKES MURDER CASE;  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

interest in the case is not at all financial, but rather arises from his former dealings and his disdain for the Nassau crowd, including the Christie element. He would like, for personal not professional reasons, to know who killed Sir Harry. My motive, of course, is academic, and as it concerns you personally. What I'm trying to say, and the reason for my cable, is that we think we know who the perpetrator is. Naturally, I won't put the man's name down on paper; and furthermore he is not known to you personally. Suffice it to say that the suspect is a native, now on one of the outer islands, and in committing the crime was in someone's hire, whose identity we also know. I say all this with the realization that I'm climbing out on a limb, for I know as well as you of the multitudinous rumors, distractions and distortions which surround the subject; and furthermore, our information is one step removed from its source. But, in view of all the circumstances and the considerable experience I have now had at spotting phoney information, I believe it to be authentic, and confirmable."

Both photostatic copies of the entire letter are being enclosed herewith for the information of the Bureau.

R. G. DANNER, SAC

GEH:HMR  
19-0  
Enclosure



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/12/80 BY SP-5 m/ab

ENCLOSURE



ENCLOSURE

62-73197-14

April 6th, 1944

Dearest [REDACTED]

I received your note this morning, and have forwarded the letter to Sydney. And I'm happy that at long last I am in touch with you again. After the trial you seemed suddenly to vanish from out of my life. I assume you were in justifiable flight from the nausea of publicity. I've been secretly cheering you, but I've missed you terribly, not only for obvious personal reasons, but because there were so many things I would liked to have talked and brooded over with you. For example, your satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the Schindler- O'Neil-Keeler contingent. In a way I felt responsible for having dragged them into the scene, and was naturally perturbed to learn that their large fees were draining you. That, I believe, is something which no one could particularly have prevented—that, on the other hand, if the more conservative advice of Orsish, et al. had been followed, and they not hired, I have a sneaking suspicion that Higgs would have stood well to lose the case and Freddie, today, might have been with his ancestors. I don't know if Schindler was worth every dollar you paid him, but I do know that Higgs was in a bad way, and odds were pretty high against Freddie's life until this outside "talent" was brought in. To be sure, I was terribly depressed, as I know you were, at Ray's penchant for publicity; and the newspaper series he wrote was atrocious. But in all fairness, I must say that in his vague way, he probably contributed just enough to push the case over its critical hump. Of course, all that Speiky, rhumba-ing, etc. business was loathsome. In my conscience, the principle and the fact of getting Schindler still seems sound, the draining of your coffers was a most regrettable concomitant, which perhaps could at least have been lessened. But when one is improvising into the unknown and unpredictable, with time as a terrifying factor, as we were in discussing the modus operandi before we had any moral support whatever, some mistakes are inescapable. I think we (largely you) carried through, as adjudged by the denouement, with creditable magnificence.

My keenest regret (next to the financial state to which the trial has reduced you) is that Schindler was unable to contribute to the solution of the crime. And I know that it must have been annoying as hell to you when he appointed himself master of ceremonies and guider of all destiny during the trial. He failed utterly in the faith we had of his being able to pull a rabbit out of the bag. For that matter, to digress, I don't think Marie helped much by interjecting a personal note (i.e., Keeler) while the trial was in full sway, and while goings-on were under closest scrutiny by the world's press.

But now that the shouting has died and the smoke is clearing, and we are acquainted with the stripes and colors of the personalities with whom we had to work, perhaps it is time again for sober thought. Who killed Sir Harry, and what does it mean? I presume this question is still vital to you in view of the fact that your future, your family's safety, and your security are still intimately tied into the question. Although I had very little to do with the actual trial proceedings, that question has always

MT 065427

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BYRON PRICE, Director.

been uppermost in my mind, and from that night at the Ritz when we first discussed it, I have been watching, ruminating and lucubrating. As a matter of fact, you probably know that practically all the dope which Schindler had, was material which I gathered and in good faith turned over to the Schindler agency.

Which brings me to the subject of the cablegram the other day. During the last six months I have been in close and extremely confidential contact with the former FBI man associated with the Christie warrant. I have spoken to you about him. He and I have quietly had numerous conferences, taken trips to Washington, interviewed granks (most of whom I turned over to Schindler), and have generally kept our ears close to the ground, trying to segregate information with a sound basis from that based on idle rumor. The principal motive for this man's interest in the case is not at all financial, but rather arises from his former dealings and his disdain for the Masses crowd, including the Christie element. He would like, for personal not professional reasons, to know who killed Sir Harry. My motive, of course, is academic, and as it concerns you personally. What I'm trying to say, and the reason for my cable, is that we think we know who the perpetrator is. Naturally, I won't put the man's name down on paper; and furthermore he is not known to you personally. Suffice it to say that the suspect is a native, now on one of the outer islands, and in committing the crime was in someone's hire, whose identity we also know. I say all this with the realization that I'm climbing out on a limb, for I know as well as you of the multitudinous rumors, distractions and distortions which surround the subject; and furthermore, our information is one step removed from its source. But, in view of all the circumstances and the considerable experience I have now had at spotting phoney information, I believe it to be authentic, and confirmable.

The question now becomes: What to do with the information. The war and your mother's indifference, I suppose, make action at this time well nigh impossible. Furthermore, maybe you're so disgusted with the whole bloody mess, as to be in a "to hell with it" state of mind. I had hopes that you'd be in the States this spring, and that you and I could possibly have taken our walking trip and discussed the state of things at a more personal and moderate pace than was formerly possible. And I still look forward to the opportunity of talking with your mother; for I haven't forgotten the Bar Harbour rebuttal. Frankly, I don't think your mother is safe so long as the incitor of the crime is at large. Maybe in time, as animosities vaporize, I'll be able to talk to your mother, or is that an idle hope? Foskett is also someone I'd like to have a few drinks with, although I do not implicate him.

In any case, only three persons know of our suspicions and our sources: myself, the FBI chap, and you. At all costs, it should go no farther. Its usefulness depends solely on its secrecy.

Georgiana was in town a couple weeks ago. She had a dinner appointment with us, but failed to show up, and didn't call. Doesn't she have a sense of responsibility? And by the way, she undoubtedly has

MR 65428

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BYRON PRICE, Director.

told you that the two hundred which she was supposed to give me was down to fifty when I called at Miami. At least, that's all she could find to give me. As far as I'm concerned, the remaining \$150 can be forgotten, but I should think you would have a right to know what became of it. (Philosophical note: Aren't people the damndest organisms?)

With that note (from which, by the way, I exclude you, for I've seen and admired you under fire), I'd better sign off.

I look forward to hearing from you, and I hope you do not think too harshly of me these days.

Much love,  
R

P.S. Joan has her own radio program on WQXR now. First good break the hard working soul has had for a long time.

P.S. Both Ballet troupes open in NYC next week.

P.S. How about your operations? I rather assume from your cable that you've found a suitable surgeon in Cuba. My sympathies are with you. I look forward to your coming out of it all as sleek, handsome, and healthy as Venus. I've also had some drastic dental work done recently which, I'm whispered, renders me unrecognizably handsome.

P. S. Enclosed are a couple of clippings which may be of interest to you.

*Best to Frankie!*

MI 065429

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W PRICE, Director

Paul A. Zahl  
Haskins Laboratories  
305 East 43rd Street  
New York 17, N.Y.

*Quinn*



MI 055430

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BYRON PRICE, Director

b7C

New York, N. Y.

May 31, 1944

JD:EMC

Director, FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/12/80 BY SP-5 [signature]

Dear Sir:

On May 22, 1944, Special Employee [redacted] advised [redacted] of the New York SIS office that he had had lunch with HAROLD CHRISTY of Nassau on that same date.

[redacted] stated he thought the Bureau would be interested in the fact that Mr. CHRISTY was in New York City at the request of certain influential persons in Nassau to employ an investigator or investigators to re-open the Oakes murder case and determine the identity of the true culprit. Mr. CHRISTY advised Special Employee [redacted] that he personally believed DE MARIGNY was the murderer although acquitted on trial in Nassau.

CHRISTY asked [redacted] if it would be possible to employ the FBI on such a project and Kelly stated that he did not think an official Federal Agency would be interested in a crime committed in Nassau. CHRISTY then advised [redacted] confidentially that he had had a long conference with former Police Commissioner Edward P. Mulrooney and sought to enlist his services in re-opening the investigation of the Oakes Murder. Mulrooney advised him that he personally would not go to Nassau but that he would send a good man there undercover who would conduct the necessary investigation and that he, Mulrooney, would supervise the investigation.

Christy told [redacted] that the expenses for such an investigation would be raised by contributions of a few influential people in Nassau and it was expected to raise a fund of from ten to fifteen thousand pounds. The interest of these people in clearing up this murder was that they felt that Nassau had an extremely bad name in the eyes of the American public because of the murder and for public relations reasons, the murder should be solved.

[redacted] added that this entire project is of further interest in that DE MARIGNY told [redacted] while he was on SIS assignment in Cuba that HAROLD CHRISTY was actually the murderer of Sir Harry Oakes. Of further interest in this particular item, the following appeared in the DAILY NEWS of May 27, 1944, in Ed Sullivan's column: "Understand the principals in the Sir Harry Oakes unsolved murder conferred in this city a few days back."

RECORDED & INDEXED Very truly yours,

E. E. CONROY

E. E. CONROY  
SAC

Appeal # 99-1562  
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DATE 11-8-93 BY SP7C/L/K/A

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11-8-93 BY SP7C/L/K/A

CONFIDENTIAL

AR:MP  
62-73197 - 22  
62-73197

b7D

March 3, 1945

AIR MAIL

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 npl/lan  
REASON FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 6/12/90  
6/12/90

My dear Commissioner:

With reference to your letter of February 21, 1945, concerning the possible additional evidence in the case involving the murder of Sir Harry Oakes, it is regretted that we will not be able to interrogate an individual who it is understood is a native of the Bahamas but who is presently in the United States.

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Mumford  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

It is suggested that in view of the limitation which is placed upon our investigative activity limiting our jurisdiction to certain specified types of offenses against the United States, you may wish to call upon the Chief of Police of the city wherein the individual is presently residing, for his assistance in conducting the interview. In this regard, you may wish to furnish the Chief of Police with such background information as you may have available in order that he may fully cover the interview which you desire made in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director